



Vol. 4, No.1

The Water's Edge



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Vicksburg District

Signs of the Time



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

News magazine of the
Vicksburg District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Commander and District Engineer
Col. Anthony C. Vesay

Acting Chief, Public Affairs
Frank Worley

Managing Editor
Shirley J. Smith

Layout and Design
Custom Events & Communications
Paula Robertson, Graphics Designer

■ Authorization: The Water's Edge is an authorized unofficial news magazine of the Vicksburg District. It is published quarterly in accordance with provisions of Army Regulation 360-1, under supervision of the Public Affairs Officer. It is prepared by contract on a desktop publisher and printed by offset.


■ Circulation: 1500 copies per issue.

■ Submission: News, features, photographs, and art are solicited; publication depends on general interest as judged by the editor.

Direct queries to:
Frank.e.Worley@mvk02usace.army.mil or Phone (601) 631-5052.
Fax (601) 631-5225.

■ Contents: Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or this command. News copy is prepared in accordance with AP (Associated Press) Style Guide. All photos, unless otherwise credited, are official U. S. Army photos.

Contents

DE's Corner.	3
<i>Colonel Anthony C. Vesay</i>	
Two District employees receive Modern Day Technology Leader Award. . .	4
<i>By Shirley Smith, PAO</i>	
Enid Lake rangers receive regional award	4
<i>PAO Special</i>	
District team member's 4th tour in Iraq makes him more grateful . . .	5
<i>Special from Baghdad</i>	
Dredge Jadwin gets repair work	6
<i>Courtesy of Memphis District's River Watch</i>	
Arkabutla Lake's natural resource program has much to offer outdoors enthusiasts.	7
<i>By Shea Staten, Arkabutla Lake</i>	
Enid and Grenada lakes recognized as premier Crappie fishing lakes . .	8-9
<i>By Enid and Grenada lakes personnel</i>	
 District's Katrina cleanup a massive mission	10-11
<i>By David Longmire, contract writer</i>	
<i>Photos by Keith Matthews and Alfred Dulaney</i>	
Motor Vessel Lipscomb to bear name of African American	12
<i>PAO Special</i>	
Extreme Makeover: Home edition selects Arkansas family.	12
<i>By Barbara Corbitt, Lake Greeson park ranger</i>	
Partnership with Corps and University of Arkansas allows for promotion of water safety	13
<i>Lake personnel</i>	
Soldier's inspiration fuels mother's desire to serve in Iraq	14
<i>By Shirley Smith, PAO</i>	
Phillips retires after 35 years of dedicated service	15
District celebrates Black History Month	15
<i>By Latasha Jackson, PAO</i>	
Workplace volunteerism plentiful at District	16-17
<i>By Shirley Smith, PAO</i>	
Value engineering not just a checked box	18
<i>By Brandy Alexander</i>	
Two inducted into Gallery of Distinguished employees	19
Retiree Profile	19
Corps honors new recreation passes	20



On The Cover



Amid the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. flag among debris was a sign of hope for most residents along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

DE's Corner by Col. Anthony C. Vesay

Just three years ago, I was the “new guy” on the block. Not anymore. In fact, I’m close to becoming the “last guy.” In June of this year the reigns of MVK will be turned over to a new Commander, Colonel Michael Wehr. I personally know Mike and can tell you the District will be well served.

I would be remiss not to take a moment to look back and reflect on all that has happened in the last three years, and all of the people who have done extraordinary things for this District and our Nation. From serving with Hurricane Katrina’s recovery efforts to the Global War on Terror; and some of our folks did both, the impact you and this District have had is indisputable.

Katrina certainly shook our focus, but not our foundation. Service to the nation includes not only our ongoing civil works mission, but also Service in times of crisis and war. And each of you has performed admirably.

When I arrived I knew I was filling big shoes...not the previous Commanders’ shoes, but the tradition established by the District since its founding in 1873: a tradition of excellence. Back then, Leo Phillips, our former Chief of Construction, had just been named USACE Civilian of the year; the Natchez Bluffs had been recognized with a national award; and Johnny Cantrell had been named USACE Stewardship Employee of the Year.

Since then dozens of employees have been recognized for their efforts locally, regionally and nationally, with three of our employees being recognized as part of the Black Engineer of the Year award program.

Diversity in projects, diversity in staff, consistency in results.

Results require dedication, professionalism and a plan. Each year we have developed and instituted our Ops plan and this year is no different. With a focus on Purpose, Process and People we have streamlined our efforts towards a universal goal of excellence in service to the Nation, both here and when deployed.

When we look at the “Purpose



Col. Anthony C. Vesay, Commander

plan the very first of our goals is to support the Global War on Terror. Second, is to respond to assigned and/or other Emergency Response Operations. Third is to execute our civil works program.

As you can see, we have been following that model over the last few years. Experience has taught us to be prepared, to be flexible, and to keep the end in mind when we set out to accomplish our mission.

But we have to also be more efficient with our resources. That means managing and enhancing our most efficient and effective organization or MEEEO in accordance with our Regional Business Model, and we are on track in achieving our MEEEO targets.

The very heartbeat of our District and every project we undertake is the heartbeat that resides within each of you. Keeping each of you safe while working is our top priority. That is why we have taken the time and continue to reinforce Safety, Integrity and Respect in our weekly SNAC meetings, and is our first goal under the People section of our Ops plan.

The foundation of our Ops plan is centered around our people, internally as well as the customers that we serve. Service to the people yields desired results when the results are imbedded with SIR: Safety, Integrity, and Respect. Results without SIR are hollow and moot.

The second goal is to recruit, safeguard, develop and recognize our MEEEO workforce, the FY 07 work plan being the latest. We know the challenges you encounter and overcome each day. Hiring new employees, training current employees and recognizing top performers is a guarantee that our District will be able to continue to perform over the long haul.

Within the workforce and our day to day efforts with our customers, positive and effective working relationships are critical. Our third goal under people is to sustain those relationships. In a crisis and during the inevitable road blocks that slow our progress, one good, strong relationship will beat a well written process any day of the week. The ability to work through problems together with a focused joint goal is absolutely necessary to achieve suc-

Continued on page 9



Col Vesay meets with Brent Talley, Congressman Mike Ross, and Jeff Weaver at the 50th anniversary of Lake Ouachita.

Two Vicksburg District employees receive Modern Day Technology Leader Award

By Shirley J. Smith, editor

Two employees with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Vicksburg District recently received the Modern Day Technology Leader Award. Modern-day technology leaders are men and women of color who are demonstrating outstanding performance in their areas of expertise.

Sarah T. Palmer and Gloria C. Piazza received the award for their outstanding contributions to engineering, managerial and community service excellence at the 2007 Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference held in Baltimore, Md., February 15-17.

Ms. Palmer began her career with the Vicksburg District in 2001. She has done significant work with the ongoing Greenville Flood Insurance Study, which provides 100 year flood elevations for the City of Greenville and surrounding areas. She also works with the Ross Barnett and Dam Break Analysis project, which analy-

ses the effect of a breach in the dam. Other job duties involve hydraulic analysis for the Mississippi River including weir designs.

A Utica native, she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering, and a Master of Science Degree in engineering management from Mississippi State University.

She is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, a graduate of the Vicksburg District's Leadership Development Program, and Toastmasters International.

Gloria C. Piazza began her career with the Vicksburg District in 2000. She was presented the award for assisting with the Corps' Hurricane Katrina Recovery efforts. She developed detailed geographic information system digital mapping processes and procedures. These processes were used to identify damaged and destroyed properties in south Missis-



Sarah Palmer
sippi, and for
tracking federal
debris removal

status on those properties.

She is a current member of the Vicksburg District's Leadership Development Program.

She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in industrial supervision, emphasis in photography and graphic arts from Northern Arizona University; and a Bachelor of Science Degree in environmental resources with an emphasis in range and wildlife management from Arizona State

Enid Lake Rangers receive regional award

PAO Special

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ranger staff at Enid Lake received the water safety regional award from the National Water Safety Congress.

The award was presented at the 2007 International Boating and Water Safety Summit, San Antonio, Tex., March 7.

Rangers receiving the award were Vance Austin, Jackie Ferrell, Chris Hannaford, Robb Hoff, David Herron, Frank Laster, Doyle Morrow, Robert Newton, Benjamin Pitcock, and Michael Robinson.

The team received the award for outstanding leadership in teaching water safety, as well as outstanding contributions to water safety in 2006.

They have not only been instrumental in teaching water safety to area schools and Enid Lake visitors, but conducts programs at area events such as health fairs, career days, outdoor extravaganzas, and water safety events.

They have shared ideas at water safety conferences including the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, and with water safety project delivery teams of other districts within the Corps of Engineers.

Personnel including the rangers at Enid Lake wrote and produced commercials that addressed the major causes of drowning by lake visitors. More than 6,000 water safety spots are aired from May through Labor Day each year, reaching a viewing



Lake Personnel pictured left to right are: North MS lakes project manager James L. Carver, Enid Lake supervisory ranger Michal D. Robinson, Enid Lake park rangers Jackie Ferrell, Chris Hannaford, Benjamin Pitcock, Chief of Operations Division Dennis Norris, and Chief of Safety Office Mac Wimbish.

Rangers receiving award and not pictured are: Enid Lake resource manager Billy J. Samuels, Vance Austin, Robb Hoff, David Herron, Frank Laster, Doyle Morrow, and Robert Newton.

audience of 250,000 people in north Mississippi.

Due to the team's dedication in promoting water safety, statistics indicate that the number of drowning incidents and boating accidents at Enid Lake and surrounding areas has decreased.

To promote boating and water safety in local schools, all rangers must be certified as Mississippi Boat and Water Safety instructors with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks.

District team member's fourth tour in Iraq makes him more grateful

Special from Baghdad

Who would have thought being in Iraq, as we say in Mississippi about the river, could get in your blood. Proof is hopping off a C-130 transport at the Baghdad International Airport for a forth tour in as many years. Another sign is running into people from three previous tours almost every week passing through to other Corps locations.

Since 2003 many Corps of Engineers volunteers have made the trip to contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq, and many of them are repeaters.

Walter Mattingly of the Vicksburg District is one of those repeaters.

"There is something so rewarding about the people and work there that until the mission is over, there is a magnetic attraction to see it through to the end. In this way we mirror the military; mission, country and family. Our mission is #1 and we do it for our country but we do miss our families," Mattingly stated.

His first tour in Iraq in June of 2003 took him to Al Hillah for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) where he spent 6 months rehabbing 100 schools and several clinics. He clocked thousands of miles going all over central Iraq each day visiting schools and meeting local Iraqis. Each visit to a school brought out the local children, who were always so excited to see us there, knowing their school was going to be reopened and made to look and function like new. "Like anything you do for the first time, I was taken by storm with the excitement of a different culture and the

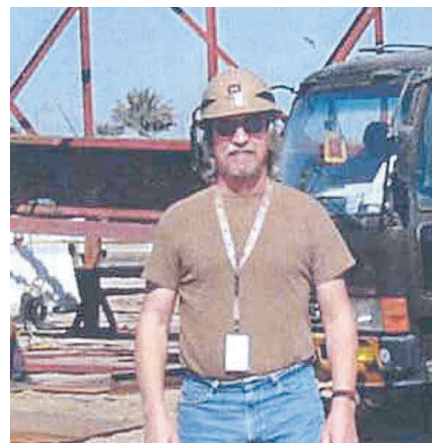
pride of giving for the benefit of others through the Corps," he stated.

His second tour in 2004 took him to the Green Zone in Baghdad to the newly opened Gulf Region Division Central District. There he was assigned to rehab 23 electrical substations in central Iraq and Baghdad. Once again he was able to travel to his job sites and experience first hand the country, cities and people.

"Like anything you do for the first time, I was taken by storm with the excitement of a different culture and the pride of giving for the benefit of others through the Corps," he stated.

His third tour came in 2005 and once again landed in what is now known as the International Zone, same place but different name. He was not alone, working with several other Corps folks from the second tour. This time Central District allowed him to work on all the major water and sewer treatment plant contracts in Baghdad. Mattingly said that now he was capable of driving a cab in Baghdad because he knew his way around as if he had lived there most of his life.

The Corps was hiring local Iraqi engineers to assist with the day to day inspections allowing him several



Walter Mattingly

trips a week to help coordinate with the contractors and the Army. Rehabilitating the existing plants and adding additional space was the focus of this mission. As with the second tour the theme was, "What have you done for the Iraq people today?"

After spending the next year working with Hurricane Katrina, as thousands of people did, he went back to Iraq for one more tour. Now, working at Victory Base for the Central District again, his job is mostly concentrated on support for the military soldiers and their needs.

Stationed in and around the Baghdad International Airport, he said that he is fortunate to work with several people from previous tours. "It does get in your blood and the friendships have lasted and will continue to last probably the rest of my life. I now have a much greater understanding of what the Corps and the Army does for a living, and have become more grateful for what we have in America. When I see how much the Iraqi people want freedom, it drives me to do all I can to see that they get it, Mattingly stated.

Dredge Jadwin gets repair work

February temperatures were icy, but the pace of work was hot at Ensley Engineer Yard on McKellar Lake in Memphis.

The project at the Corps' premier marine maintenance center was a complete rework of the propulsion tunnel on the District's Dredge Jadwin. According to Shannon Reed, acting chief of Ensley's plant section, the Jadwin arrived in Memphis to the floating dry-dock on January 24, and within 10 days almost all of the old tunnel assemblies were cut out, and was soon ready to begin the new work.

The "tunnels" Reed talks about are the two long pathways in the stern of the dredge's hull that house the wheels (river terminology for propellers), rudders, shafts and other equipment used to move and guide the vessel through the water.

The external propulsion configuration on the Jadwin was much the same as it was when the veteran dredge was built in 1933. Although adequate for the time it was built, the design produced a significant amount of what marine engineers call "cavitation," which also pro-

duced unwanted vibration and general inefficiency.

Cavitation takes place when vapor pockets form in a flowing liquid in regions of very low pressure—just what the original design of the Jadwin's propulsion tunnels produced. It is a frequent cause of structural damage to propellers, pumps and other structures.

Workers on the Jadwin removed all the propulsion equipment and welders stripped steel hull plates and even the steel ribbing that surrounds the tunnels. They enlarged the tunnels, replaced the traditional wheels with kort nozzles, and performed a variety of other improvements. Kort nozzles are shrouded, ducted propeller assemblies used for marine propulsion. The hydrodynamic design of the shroud, which is shaped like a foil, offers advantages for certain conditions (like vessels that move at relatively slow speeds through the water) over bare propellers.

Kort nozzles, also called ducted propellers, can be significantly more efficient than unducted propellers. They produce greater thrust

in a smaller package. "If water flows more freely across the wheel instead of stirring up turbulence, you get less cavitation and vibration and more efficiency," Reed said.

The Vicksburg District, home for the Jadwin, sent about 40 workers to

Background: The dredge Jadwin sits in the largest inland floating drydock north of New Orleans. Located at Ensley Engineer Yard and Marine Maintenance Center, the drydock is 320-feet long, 105-feet wide, and has a weight bearing capacity of 3,963 tons. Its 16 pumps can remove 35,200 gallons of water per minute to raise the drydock and the vessel it holds.

do the lion's share of the labor on the dredge. They worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Every other weekend half of the work force went home.

In a unique arrangement, the Vicksburg crew worked, ate, and slept aboard the Jadwin as it sat high upon blocks in the Memphis District's floating dry-dock. This provided significant cost savings relative to lodging and other travel expenses.

"We provided all shore power, water, drydocking services and supplemented their work force with welders and other metal workers," Reed said. Terry Phifer, chief of Ensley's metals unit, added that his workers made their welding and machining equipment available whenever needed, and provided their technical expertise when called upon.

As Memphis District crews began to wind down their efforts on some other projects, they shifted their efforts to the Jadwin to help with the work.

The Corps' Marine Design Center in Philadelphia provided design services for this extensive project. The purpose of the repair work was to produce significantly improved operating efficiencies, lessen crew fatigues, and extend the life of the veteran dredge for years to come, at a cost of about \$1.5 million.



Built in 1933 as a steam dredge, the Jadwin was converted to diesel power in 1985. Mike Coco, a lock attendant from the Monroe Office, welds a new liner in the dredge's main suction piping.

Arkabutla Lake's Natural Resource Program has much to offer outdoors enthusiasts

By Shea Staten, Arkabutla Lake

Photos courtesy of Arkabutla Lake park rangers

Whether it's hunting, fishing, or just enjoying the outdoors, Arkabutla Lake provides a variety of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. Since October, the natural resource programs at Arkabutla Lake have been "buzzing" with activity.

This past fall, Arkabutla Lake held its annual draw archery hunt, and its annual youth raccoon hunt. The archery hunt consisted of three hunts in the month of October and one hunt in November.

A total of 170 applications were received with 100 applicants being drawn for the hunt. This particular hunt plays a vital role in the management of the deer population within the project's natural area, encompassing an approximate 1,000 acres.

The raccoon hunt provides youth hunters the opportunity to learn from experienced hunters. As with the deer hunt, this hunt is a vital management tool to sustain a healthy raccoon population to deter an outbreak of distemper, as occurred in the 1990s.

December 2006 marked Arkabutla Lake's 15th annual physically challenged deer hunt. The physically challenged deer hunt is an exceptional event that involves most of the staff of Arkabutla Lake. For an entire week, hunters with special physical needs hunt within the projects natural area.



This youth proudly shows two raccoons captured during the hunt.

This event provides most of these hunters with a rare opportunity to participate in an outdoor activity, such as deer hunting, which they otherwise may not have been able to do without the benefit of this hunt.

This hunt, much like the archery hunt, plays an important role in the management of the deer herd within the 1,000 acre natural area.

A hunt of this magnitude would not be possible without the assistance of volunteers. Twenty eight volunteers worked a total of 1,439 hours assisting the hunters to the hunt stands.

Arkabutla Lake also hosts events for individuals to contribute to the enhancement of the natural resources and wildlife at Arkabutla Lake. In January, the 7th annual Eagle Watch and the 5th annual fish habitat day were both held to encourage this.

The 7th annual eagle watch is held in conjunction with the United States Geological Survey Midwinter bald eagle survey. Volunteers assist with the survey by observing the eagles from several different locations throughout Arkabutla Lake. The volunteers report any bald eagle sightings they encounter throughout the event.

Twenty volunteers participated in the event, and two mature bald eagle sightings were confirmed. The event also included an educational program provided by the Memphis Zoo's Wildlife on Wheels. The educational program consisted of a live showing of a variety of birds of prey.

Among other annual activity at Arkabutla Lake is the annual fish habitat day. Twenty-four volunteers participated in the event. They strategically placed Christmas trees and wooden stakes throughout the lake's bottom. The donated Christmas trees and stakes serve as habitat for fish. The event enhances the fishing at Arkabutla Lake for present and future fishermen.

Arkabutla Lake held its second annual youth waterfowl



A physically challenged deer hunter shows off his prize.

hunt, which was open to youth aged 10 to 15 years. The event consisted of a two day hunt with a total of twelve hunters, six per day.

The Corps and Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks Conservation officers, from Tate and DeSoto counties, served as guides and assisted the hunters. For some of the young sportsmen, this was their first duck hunting experience. This event provides a unique opportunity to educate the youth about the importance of wetlands, waterfowl, hunting ethics, and hunting safety.

Team members at Arkabutla Lake look forward to each of these events each year. These special events allow individuals within the lake's surrounding communities the opportunity to become conservation stewards of our nation's natural resources and environment. The Corps personnel, partners, volunteers, and participants' selfless contributions during these events improve and protect the natural resources while conserving our environment at Arkabutla Lake today and for generations to come.



Fish Habitat Day participants chat while placing trees for fish habitat.

Enid and Grenada lakes recognized as premier crappie fishing lakes

Courtesy of Lake personnel



Enid Lake personnel place fish habitat shelters.

Enid Lake personnel and local residents have always been concerned about fisheries habitat and maintaining Enid Lake's reputation as the crappie capital of the world.

Years of inundation has claimed much of Enid's fisheries habitat, but by replacing lost habitat annually, the fish habitat and fisheries population can be sustained. Prior to 1993 the Corps contracted the placement of fish shelters in the lake. Due to budget/manpower constraints, it became necessary for the Corps to look for other means of accomplishing this endeavor.

In 1993 the Corps joined with concerned sportsmen, fishing clubs, and members of the local communities and formed the Enid Lake Habitat Day Volunteer Association. Through this partnership the annual Habitat Day was organized.

Since then the event has grown from a handful of volunteers to more than 150 volunteers annually, and has become one of Enid's most successful volunteer events.

Each year the Corps and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks select areas around the lake that need habitat improvements. Different areas are targeted each year in order to provide improvements in the habitat for the entire lake.

In 2007, Enid Lake's Habitat Day was bigger than ever. One hundred and seventy-five volunteers braved the bitter cold temperatures and placed more than 2500 cedar trees and 3,000 wooden stakes over 2.1 miles of

shoreline, placing 100 cedar trees in the Wildcat Brake Wildlife Management Area. More than 1,000 fish shelters were constructed during the event, which became the most productive Habitat Day on record since 1993.

The work and continued enthusiasm of these volunteers has caused public attention to this project, and created an activated citizenry dedicated to preserving fisheries habitat and stewardship of public resources throughout the area.

A meeting regarding safety begins the Habitat Day, volunteers are then divided into groups. They travel to designated areas and strategically place cedar tree shelters and wooden stake beds along creeks and the barren mudflats. They drag trees, previously cut, to distinct locations on the mudflats and creek banks. Once the trees are in place a group of volunteers anchor the trees with concrete weights, and wooden stakes are driven into the ground along creek beds.

All fish shelter locations are then recorded by GPS by Enid personnel and downloaded into a GIS database. Maps are then created and are available to the public upon request.

According to studies performed by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks this restoration program has shown enormous benefit to the fish and habitat in Enid Lake. Studies have shown that fish utilize these shelters for various reasons including, cover, areas to feed, and places to spawn. Also, restoring the

Enid and Grenada Lakes

Continued from page 8

habitat benefits the health and increases populations of fish, this in return produces more public fishing opportunities.

Grenada Lake also is rapidly becoming known as the nation's premier crappie fishing lake. For the past few years Grenada Lake has not only hosted tournaments from the nation's four major crappie clubs (Southern Crappie Anglers Tournament, Bass Pro Shop's Crappie Masters Tournament, Cabela's Crappie USA Tournament, and the Magnolia Crappie Club's Tournament), it has hosted their classics or national championship tournaments.

In 2005, Crappie USA hosted two tournaments on Grenada Lake. The news release promoting their October, 2005, Tournament offers the following quote, "Grenada Lake is one of the top fisheries in the nation according to crappie anglers nationwide". "This lake is well-known year after year for producing some of the biggest record setting stringers of any lake in the nation".

When comparing the 2005/2006 Magnolia Crappie Club Points Race, Grenada Lake's tournament catch is over 6 pounds heavier than any other tournament lake. Coy Sipes is quoted in Crappie Masters Team Tournament Trail Magazine talking about Grenada Lake, "There's



Mike Walters and Rick Solomon won the 2006 Grenada Lake Crappie USA Champions with a winning weight of 14.39.

no comparison". "I've never seen a lake that can consistently produce 3-pound fish like that." "We pre-fished up there and caught four fish over three pounds each," he added, "The biggest was 3.59, the smallest 3.10". "I can't think of any tournament that has been held there when they haven't caught some big fish". "I get plenty excited when I go to Grenada."

In addition to the tournament, this four-day event featured seminars, banquets, kids fishing rodeo, and even a parade. All of this success didn't just happen. It has been the result of a lot of hard work from professionals like our partners with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks including biologists Keith Meals and Arthur Dunn, along with our area Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation officers.

Much of this credit belongs to our local volunteers who participate in our annual "Fish Habitat Day"

Activities. These volunteers take advantage of the low lake levels during the winter months to construct cedar tree fish shelters and stake beds with stakes donated by one of our local business partners, Memphis Hardwood Flooring Company. When it comes to crappie fishing, Grenada and Enid lakes and 'Slab Crappie' are becoming synonymous.

DE's Corner

Continued from page 3

Finally, going back to training and developing employees, our final goal for people is to improve our technical competence and prepare future technical leaders. Remember Leo Phillips, former USACE Civilian of The Year? He is now retired, so is Mike Logue, former Chief of Public Affairs; Glenn Oliver, former Chief of The Equal Employment Opportunity Office; Frank Walker, one of our leaders at our Mississippi Lakes; Alice Dortch, formerly of technology services branch of Information Management Division; and a host of others who put in 30 years or more of Service. Each time an employee hangs up his/her hat, we lose three decades of experience. But there are emerging leaders like Trudy James and Judy Ward.

Do the math: We've lost more than a millennium of

experience in the Vicksburg District during the last three years alone. That is why developing tomorrow's leaders through programs like VLDP and Mentoring are so important, as is a well thought out Co-Op Program.

What you can do to help another employee develop is not only going to benefit the District, but also everyone with whom that person will work with during the next major crisis.

Soon I will be moving on and you will move forward with your new Commander. It has been an honor and a privilege to Serve with each of you, especially given the scope of some of the work and challenges we have faced. I will never forget that we faced those challenges together, and together we have succeeded and achieved results with safety, integrity, and respect.

District's Katrina cleanup a massive mission

By David Longmire, contract writer

Photos by Alfred Dulaney, Keith Matthews

A quality assurance supervisor inspects blue roof being placed on a Katrina damaged residence.

Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the morning of August 29, 2005, devastating the Gulf Coast region of Mississippi and south-east Louisiana. The storm caused more than 1,800 deaths and resulted in more than \$81 billion in damage, making it the costliest and one of the most deadly hurricanes in U.S. history.

In the storm's aftermath the Vicksburg District was given a monumental task: Work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the massive recovery and cleanup effort for the Mississippi Gulf Coast area.

The District's mission was historic in scope and scale; it began immediately after the storm passed. Half of the District's employees (approximately 600) were deployed at sometime during the mission, and all volunteered.

Sam Horton, Deputy Commander of Katrina Recovery Operations from Nov. 2005 to Feb. 2006 said the mission was without precedent. "This was a \$1 billion mission undertaken by the Vicksburg District. That is about five years of the normal District operations costs," he said. "Personnel numbers on the ground, while I was deployed, was 1,000 to 1,200, equivalent to a large district's workforce."

Horton, who has returned to his job as area engineer for the Greenwood Area Engineer Office, said he saw the initial events begin to take shape immediately after the disaster. "The first challenge was that nothing was there...no infrastructure, no organizational structure." The police and fire departments had been decimated. Everyone was sleeping in tents. The response mission, he said, was to get ice, water, and emergency power to the people that needed it most.

Col. Anthony Vesay, Commander of the Vicksburg District, set SIR-R as the defining principals for mission execution, "Safety, Integrity, Respect." This was supplemented with the continuous message "Locals drive the train," Horton said.

Wayne Forrest, Chief of the Vicksburg District's geotechnical branch in the engineering division served as the Deputy Commander of Katrina Recovery Operations from Oct. 2005 to Feb. 2006. He said a tremendous effort was set forth by everyone involved. "You have to feel good about the accomplishments we were able to achieve as a District. We stepped up and provided support, whether physically in the field or

from the office. It put a really large strain on the District as a whole." The District staff left behind had to take care of normal business operations without a full staff at home, he said, which was equally stressful.

Jimmy Waddle, who preceded Horton in the same position, from Aug. 2005 to Nov. 2005, said communications was the first obstacle to overcome. Also immediately he had to begin relationships with the county emergency operations to assist them with the FEMA process. "They knew their needs, but did not know steps necessary for FEMA guidelines," he said.

The Vicksburg District's recovery missions included:

- Blue roofs or temporary roofing deriving its name for the bright blue color of the plastic sheeting;
- Temporary public structures. A new mission where modular, "trailer" type buildings were set up for City Hall, Fire/Police Stations, and throughout the Coast, in large part, school classrooms;
- Debris removal. The traditional mission of debris removal on the public property Right of Way and the relatively rare private property debris removal or Right of Entry. Both types of removal are also related to cleanup missions such as cars/boats, putrefied meat disposal, etc.

This was accomplished by task order type contracts which resulted in a monumental contracting effort, Horton said. "Our function was administering the contracts and all coordination with local authorities and local individual homeowners," he said. There were other minor details such as coordination on asbestos abatement procedures, cultural resources, environmental testing/remediation with other state/federal agencies.

Waddle, who is Chief of the Business Technical Division, Mississippi Valley Division, said he had previously been deployed to Iraq where he had been accustomed to stress and destruction. "However, what I saw on the Coast was much worse than in Bagdad," he said. "The storm showed no mercy. Everyone was affected. It was just mass destruction, and at first everything was hampered by a lack of communication." The stress was also much worse because there was so much to be done in such a short period of time, he said, with just the bare necessities as far as living conditions for the deployed disaster workers.

Lamar Jenkins, who served as resident engineer for Harrison County, was one of the

first volunteers to go down to the Coast on Aug. 31, 2005. "The devastation was worse than you can imagine," he said. "I couldn't envision anything like it, and I still can't after I have seen it." It went from chaos to "organized chaos," he said. "However, once we got our resources in place, you could start to see production being made," he said. The District workforce put in 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week, he said.

Jenkins, who is assistant area engineer, Greenwood Office, returned Nov. 11, 2005. While he was there, he was involved with setting up schools, accommodations for police and fire stations and other public structures, blue roofs, and debris cleanup. "The biggest task at first was securing right of entry for blue roofs," he said. One of the main problems to deal with was a severe shortage of personnel. "What stood out to me was the effort of the local volunteers from city and county governments," he said. "They came together and helped make our mission a success."

Measures of success were evident, Horton said, as 50,000 blue roofs were put on in about three months. While this was going on, 10 million cubic yards of debris was picked up in the first three months with eventually 20-plus million cubic yards being eventually removed.

Forrest said the overall initial estimates of debris generated statewide by the storm were about 45 million cubic yards. The Corps mission, he said, was confined to about 14 Mississippi counties within the gulf region in addition to the cities of Pass Christian and McClain. "We managed the programs through contracting the work," he said. One prime contractor and 861 subcontractors were used. The mission was "physically completed" almost a year after the hurricane on August 28, 2006.

Jasper Lummus of the Design Branch of the Vicksburg District's Engineering Division, was deployed from October 2005 to March 2006. Part of that time was spent as a quality assurance supervisor of the debris mission. "It was overwhelming," he said. Much of his work involved insuring safe work practices in the field. In addition, this mission had to make sure that the debris picked up and hauled away was eligible under FEMA guidelines. "This was difficult at first because there were not enough quality assurance inspectors," he said.

Elizabeth Ivy, mission manager for temporary public structures, said her mission

Katrina

continued



Katrina destroyed most of what was in her path.

came about out of necessity. Previously there was a housing mission in disaster relief efforts which was on the Coast initially. "Because of the severity of the storm, there were so many schools, city halls, police, and fire stations that were destroyed, and before you recover you have to have a center of operations within the government," she said. "Therefore we realized a different mission was needed."

Ivy, who served on the Coast from Nov. 2005 to Oct. 2006, said it was a huge effort requiring cooperation among the Corps, FEMA, MEMA, the State Department of Education, and the local governments that resulted in a successful mission. "We first came up with the priorities... where to locate the structures, how many were needed, etc." she said. As a result, she said a total of 726 temporary public structures were provided, which included 493 classrooms and 233 government structures such as state, county, and city offices. Mobile homes were provided by FEMA which then required ground work, heating, cooling, sewage, and water, she said. The mission was accomplished by Feb. 2006, she said, but she stayed on as a congressional liaison.

Horton said the best part of the long work was the workforce, especially from throughout the Corps, who worked tirelessly. "These people had to make things happen and create positive progress out of nothing. This had to be accomplished without what we take for granted: comfortable bed at night, restaurants, gas stations," he said.

"We have good people throughout the Corps," he said. "I heard that repeatedly, and it was truly across the Corps. I believe every district within the Corps was eventually represented." Staff from all over the nation and Europe volunteered, he said. "It demonstrates the caliber of people that works for the Corps. They started working within a loose structure and pulled together."

They were all on the front lines, Horton said, and what we all realized was that the people there appreciated what we were

doing."

Waddle said it was a rewarding experience to be a part of such an effort. "The one thing that stands out in my memory was shortly after the hurricane I was in a helicopter near Biloxi with the National Guard, and they discovered a community distribution center that was not in their database. We landed in a nearby open field to get them immediate food and water. The people that had gathered there were all so grateful," he said.

Ivy, who is now back at work as the Vicksburg District's project manager of the Red River Basin, said she was touched by how much appreciation the children and their families showed the team. "One time a school chorus came out and sang while they were working," she said. "Often their families would bake cookies and bring to us. Just working with these school kids really struck



Katrina left many scenes like this. The Vicksburg District removed more than 20 million cubic yards of debris.

a nerve with many of us because these kids were devastated. Nothing was normal in their lives." More appreciation poured in as the schools, one by one, began to function again. "I never heard so many kids that said they were glad to be back in school," she said, "but they were just glad to get back into their routines and to be with their friends again."

Despite the 12 to 14-hour days, everyday, working with Corps personnel from all over the country and from around the world was a memorable experience, Ivy said. "It made me proud to be an employee of the Corps. It was very emotional, and it made me feel good for what we were doing."

Forrest agreed. "The Corps as a whole had representation from all districts," he said, "and there were other Federal agencies such as the National Parks Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Land Management, and Indian Affairs. Definitely it all came together and was a true team

effort."

The whole team was willing to do whatever was necessary, Forrest said. "We all pulled together and got the job done." During disaster recovery missions, you don't have time to slowly develop working relationships, he said. You have to get it done quickly and adhere to the FEMA guidelines of safety, integrity and respect while achieving results.

"It was a situation where things had to keep going," Horton said, "while at the same time there were concerns involving environmental, political, historical issues as well as private property concerns. Despite this, we had to move forward and the job continued to progress."

It was the can-do spirit of the recovery team that made it happen. "The main thing that struck me was that nobody dwelled on petty things," Horton said. "Supervision was minimal because of the personnel turnover, but the team as a whole recognized the importance of accomplishing the mission."

The 2007 hurricane season officially begins in June just as the final closeout of the Katrina recovery efforts is being completed. Forrest is now serving as the project manager for Katrina, Mississippi Closeout. He said though the end is near there is still much to do. "In addition to my regular job, I have been doing this closeout job for about three months now and it hasn't slowed down."

The closeout, he said, deals with the financial part of the disaster relief effort.

The worst parts of the disaster relief effort, Forrest said, are the beginning and the closeout at the end. "The beginning is the worst because it is so hectic; you are trying to organize quickly and there is not enough time to do everything. The closeout is more complex and time-consuming as you are dealing with such issues as claims, complaints, and invoices. You have to be sure that you have a good accounting, make sure you are properly paying the contractors, and looking out for the taxpayers' money," he said.



Workers load debris to be hauled to temporary debris reduction site.



District's Newest Motor Vessel to bear name of African American

PAO Special



William James, 23-year veteran worked as a cook aboard the LIPSCOMB site.

After a half century of service, the Motor Vessel LIPSCOMB will be transferred to the Little Rock District to be used as a work boat and a towboat museum. The LIPSCOMB will be replaced in a dedication ceremony, and the replacement will bear the name of a former District river operations team member, William E. James.

The new major working vessel WILLIAM JAMES, the first Corps vessel ever named for an African-American wage grade employee, honors James, a cook on the LIPSCOMB from 1979 until his drowning death in 2003.

James received numerous performance and special act awards during his tenure. His career success was attributed to his Army values, which were the cornerstone of his life, along with his deep religious convictions.

The 23-year veteran has always been characterized by his co-workers and supervisors as extremely depend-

able, reliable and trustworthy, a man with a smile, always willing to assist. He was also a respected professional and a leader among his peers.

The food service team has long been recognized for their importance in supporting river operations and serving as outstanding ambassadors for key visitors to the District's floating plant.

On 30 August 2003, James was noticed missing. His body was recovered three days later, and the cause of death was fresh water drowning.

District leadership, in submitting the package for approval, said that "naming a vessel for Mr. James will have a profound positive impact upon the Vicksburg District and the community by sending a message that we value all members of our team and their contribution to the mission."



"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" selects Arkansas family

Employees and volunteers at Lake Greeson help make dream come true for local family

By park ranger Barbara Corbitt

Ned Hollenbach, natural resources manager at Lake Greeson in Murfreesboro, Arkansas, received a call the second week in February, asking if the Corps could possibly assist in an awesome event that would change the lives of a local family forever, as well as the lives of hundreds of volunteers in this small southwest Arkansas town. Sworn to secrecy, the events of the forth coming week were explained to Hollenbach and his response was "how can the Corps help?" As a matter of fact, Hollenbach was one of a few chosen persons in Murfreesboro to learn that the Collins family was going to be awakened, bright and early, Monday morning, February 16th by ABC's national television crew, "Extreme Makeover: Home Editions and Tye Pennington Yelling, "Good morning, Collins family!"

The Collins family was selected to receive a new home from thousands of applicants due to their son, Mitchell, surviving a rare form of brain cancer which left him impaired mentally. Also, when a relative died, the Collins, without consideration for their own comfort, took the five small children into their lives and home so that the children would not be separated by the "system" RealSteel and "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" knew the few motels in Murfreesboro could not accommodate the influx of volunteers, skilled laborers, plus the 70 person building crew of RealSteel. What could the Corps do to help?

Hollenbach and supervisory ranger Gary Lammers made an assessment of Corps camping facilities within



An Arkansas family has a new home as a result of Extreme Makeover.

quick driving distance from the construction site that was approximately 3 miles from Lake Greeson. Two areas quickly came to mind...The Dam Area, which has 18 sites with electricity and water facilities and Parker Creek, an area with 57 sites with electricity and water facilities but not due to be opened until March 1st.

In less than a week's time, could personnel have this park ready for those workers wishing to bring and stay in their campers? Management said, "YES"! Hollenbach and Lammers were besieged by numerous questions from fellow workers as to why the park was opening early. The suspense was insurmountable! However, no answer was given.....only a sheepish grin or sly smile. After all, they had been sworn to secrecy.

Campers began to arrive the day before construction began....February 16th. They came from Ohio, Iowa, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas to name a few. Once again the Corps had stepped forward aiding a worthwhile cause. As events unfolded numerous Corps employees and their families stepped forward to volunteer their personal time and contribute without complaint.



Engaging People

Partnership with Corps and University of Arkansas allows for promotion of water safety

By Lake Ouachita personnel

“Wooooo0000 Pig S000000000!” is ordinarily something heard from enthusiastic fans at a University of Arkansas football or basketball game. This year, you were apt to hear it in San Antonio, Texas, in early March at the Eleventh Annual International Boating and Water Safety Summit as an Award of Merit was given to Houston Nutt, football coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks. He was honored for his efforts on creating water safety public service announcements (PSA’s) with the DeGray Lake staff and the U of A mascot.

On 22 June 2006, Coach Nutt, supervisory park ranger Stacy Sigman and natural resource specialist Brian Westfall gathered at the Broyles Athletic Complex on the University of Arkansas campus. Under the direction of Corps personnel and Channel WB42 KWBK, Little Rock, Arkansas, Coach Nutt recorded water safety public service announcements on behalf of the Corps of Engineers.

The messages, developed by Corps personnel, centered on teamwork and wearing the proper equipment both on the field and on the water, emphasizing that wearing a life jacket is the best defense against water-related accidents and injuries. Coach Nutt and his family enjoy many types of water sports on lakes in the state; therefore, he was knowledgeable about our message, and was enthusiastic to support our effort.

The two public service announcements were aired on state and local television channels during the 4th of July Holiday period and beyond, over 300 times. The PSA was also aired on ESPN several times on the day of Arkansas’ first football game of the season.



Coach Nutt stands besides the mascot for the university.

The water safety partnership with the University of Arkansas provided for an outstanding opportunity to promote water safety education with Coach Houston Nutt as a spokesperson and role model. Without a professional sports team in the state, the University of Arkansas is

the sports connection for a vast majority of people in Arkansas, thereby adding great interest to the water safety spots.

Drowning still remains the second leading cause of accidental death among persons 15-44. This peer group is highly attuned to college athletics, and a coach’s words can have a great effect. Coach Nutt has proved to be an outstanding ambassador for the Corps of Engineers, telling our story in a very professional and visible manner. His voice and image has helped us get our message out to young people across the state, and opened the door for more partnering efforts in the future.



This Award of Merit was presented to Coach Houston Nutt.

Soldier's inspiration fuels mother's desire to serve in Iraq

By Shirley Smith, PA specialist

The Corps' mission in Iraq includes providing logistical and engineering services in support of the civil/military construction. According to one Corps employee there, it is evident throughout Iraq the marvelous work the Corps is doing. Each project the Corps completes, whether it's water, sewer, electricity, hospitals, fire or police stations, it is making a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. They can see that their government is working and things are getting better.

Seeing a growth in her son, and of course coupled with the fact that she saw another opportunity to help, is what caused Joanne Gibbs to deploy to Iraq.

Gibbs, an equal employment opportunity specialist with the District's EEO Office, is currently serving as database manager for the USACE Gulf Region Central District (GRC), USAID Project Office. The office provides construction management support to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Iraq Infrastructure Reconstruction Program.

Before deploying to Iraq, Gibbs had just returned from serving with the recovery efforts of Hurricane Katrina.

One year before Katrina, in June 2004, Gibb's only son, Darrin, who was taking summer classes at Hinds Community College while serving in the U.S. Army Reserves, was called to duty to serve with the 229th Aviation Brigade in Iraq. After completing that tour of duty, Darrin reunited with his mother and sister, Dorrian, in October 2005. She stated that it was that visit that

ignited her desire to serve in Iraq.

"I was helping with the Katrina cleanup when he returned and I saw such a growth in him. He had just really matured and grown up. Seeing that change in him and hearing him talk about the things that the United States was doing to rebuild that country aided my decision to deploy to Iraq, something that I really wanted to do," Gibbs said.

Soon after completing the process to deploy to Iraq, she learned that Sergeant Darrin Gibbs would be making a second deployment to Iraq or Kuwait. Within two weeks in July 2006, both were on their way overseas-Darrin to Kuwait with the 3rd Personnel Command from Jackson, and Joanne to Baghdad with the Corps.

"Since I am the database manager, I get a lot of requests everyday from many sources. It's a lot of work but I love every moment of it. I work with a diverse group of people; people from Kenya, Russia, Madagascar, El Salvador, Haiti, Colombia, Peru, and many other places around the world. I call it a true United Nations," Gibbs said.

Gibbs was interviewed in Baghdad last Christmas by CNN and her expressions during the interview were of an obvious devotion to duty.

"I must say I am thrilled with my deployment to Iraq. The opportunity to be a part of this team as we help rebuild Iraq and serve the Iraqi people is awesome. It's an historic endeavor and a very personally rewarding experience," Gibbs stated.

Statements Gibbs made and her devoted work ethic prompted the



Joanne Gibbs while at work in Baghdad.

Corps to respond with a letter of praise for her.

"Your selfless service and your desire to make a contribution to our soldiers and our country are indeed to be commended...I am honored to have the privilege of leading wonderful people like you...Thank you for being such a wonderful Ambassador for the Corps of Engineers," wrote Major General Ronald L. Johnson, Deputy Commanding General and Deputy Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

General Johnson also addressed Gibbs' son in the letter.

Since that time, Gibbs said she has continued to do what she came to do and does not feel unsafe. She jokingly said that her worst fear was overeating because there is so much food there. "Whatever you like, they have it here," she said.

Although food might be another concern for her, Gibbs said working in Iraq is a positive experience.



Phillips retires after 35 years of dedicated service

After 35 years of service to the Corps, former Chief of Construction Division has retired.

Leo Phillips began his career with the Corps with the cooperative education program while attending the University of South Alabama, Mobile.

After graduation from South Alabama in 1974 with a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering, he accepted an assignment to the first Resident Engineer Office on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway at Gainesville, Ala. He spent ten years in various positions and locations along the Tenn-Tom project.

In 1983 Phillips transferred to Fort Rucker, Alabama to begin an eight-year period of assignments on various military installations in offices performing both military and civil works construction. In 1991 he moved to the Mobile District to accept an assignment as quality assurance branch chief.

He earned his Master of Engineering Degree in 1996 from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla. In 1998 he accepted a developmental assignment as Chief, Design Branch in Engineering Division until his selection as Chief, Construction Division, Vicksburg District.

In 2004, Phillips served in a temporary assignment in Baghdad, Iraq, setting up the Construction

Division for the Central District of the Corps.

He was named U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civilian of the Year for 2004, and was among the Top Ten Federal Engineers of the Year for 2004.

His last assignment with the Corps was serving in a detailed position as Acting Regional Business Director due to the absence of the incumbent who is serving as Director, Task Force Hope.

He is a firm believer in the greatness of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its ability to continue to deliver solutions to the Nation's engineering challenges. He believes in people, that given the needed resources and process structure, they will always excel.

In his leisure time, he enjoys woodworking. He also has an internet website displaying pictures of some of his backyard birds and birding information.

He and his wife enjoy walking for exercise, bird watching and gardening. They are the parents of a son.



Leo Phillips

Vicksburg District celebrates Black History Month

By LaTasha Jackson, PA Co-Op Student/Photos by Alfred Dulaney



Above: Dr. Nichols speaks at Black History Month program at District headquarters.

Right: Colonel Vesay presents a plaque to the overall winner of the poster contest, Erika Sullivan, a student at Bowmar Elementary School.

The District celebrated Black History Month with a program at District headquarters, and sponsored a poster contest for local schools.

Guest speaker for the program was Dr. Reginald T. W. Nichols, president of The Piney Woods School, Piney Woods, Miss.

The theme for this year's celebration was "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas."

Dr. Nichols was selected as the fourth president of The Piney Woods School in July 2006. He has been actively involved in education, serving for 21 years as an elementary and middle school principal, counselor, consultant and faculty member.

During his speech Dr. Nichols stated, "It is not enough to be talented, we need leadership." The Piney Woods choir rendered two musical selections.

During the program, winners of the poster contest were announced.

First place overall winner was Erika Sullivan, a student at Bowmar Elementary School.



District yields much volunteerism

By Shirley J. Smith, editor

Aligned with the many efforts undertaken during the year by Vicksburg District's team members are the many activities for which they volunteer. In addition to other District team members the folks participating with the volunteer efforts are prime examples of being relevant, ready, responsive, reliable.

Just as District team members quickly responded to the demands of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many employees are often called upon to serve their community, sometimes on a weekly basis, and they answer the call with vigor.

The Combined Federal Campaign is an integral part of the District's "giving and sharing" slogan. The 2006 chairperson, Rose Jackson of Operations Division stated that the benefits of CFC give us an opportunity to help others and rise to the occasion when disaster strikes.

"Lending a helping hand is the American way and CFC affords us to do this through a one-time donation or through payroll deduction. We are blessed in many ways where some are not so fortunate, this contribution can make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate," Jackson stated.

Contributions total for the District was more than \$64,000.00.

Some of the District's volunteer programs are outlined below.

Adopt-A-School Program

- The Vicksburg District adopted one of the city's local high schools, Vicksburg High, during the fall of 1998. Since that time the District has made valuable contributions to the school. Charlie Tolliver, principal of VHS, stated, "The Vicksburg District has been an asset to VHS."
- The District donated computers to the school after a fire destroyed their computer lab; a van was donated to VHS' JROTC group; District team members have and still serve as tutors, mentors, proctors during state testing, participate with job shadowing when students visit the District and see firsthand the type work that District employees perform on a daily basis; computer specialists have assisted with setting up computer programs; team members participate with the school's homecoming activities, and the list goes on.
- The District has assisted VHS with educational as well as motivational projects, and has participated with school events that will forever be cherished and remembered by students and District team members.

The main ingredient of the partnership between the District and VHS is an annual plan developed by the District's Commander and Adopt-A-School Program committee members along with the principal, faculty, and staff of VHS. After the plan is adopted by the partners, it is then submitted to the coordinator of the Adopt-A-School Program within the Vicksburg-Warren School District.

In support of the nationwide program, the District has a special place on its headquarters first floor depicting the partnership, an Adopt-A-School Wall. Displayed on the wall are photos of activities among the staff, faculty and staff of VHS and District Commanders and other team members.

The 2006-2007 chairperson for the District's Adopt-A-School Program Committee, Sarah Palmer, stated, "Franklin D. Roosevelt said it best, 'we cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.' I saw the AAS program as an opportunity for me to be involved in that piece of the process. During this school year, I have gained a sense of satisfaction by donating my time in order that I might make a modest difference in someone else's life.

"Vicksburg High School's students benefit from this program by receiving additional enrichment, reinforcement of skills, expanded learning opportunities, motivation towards excellence, and a better understanding of the business world.

"The faculty and staff benefits include increased community awareness, and enhanced professional assistance through the District's efforts. The program fosters a better understanding of the community's school system, strengthens and improves school programs and curricula, as well as creates a sense of personal interaction between the school and the District."

There is also a fun part of volunteerism, especially with this particular program. One such fun event is Homecoming week at VHS.

Committee members have participated with the pep rally, parade, and a couple of basketball games.

Carol Murphy of the Vicksburg Con-



District Christmas committee members along with other District team members, and Director of Salvation Army, are pictured with 150 angel gifts donated by District team members for families for the Holidays.

solidated Contracting Office served as chairperson for about three years, and was known on the committee as the "Spirit Person." "Serving on the committee allowed me to interact not only with fellow team members but with school and city officials as well.

"The AAS Program certainly kept me busy while juggling my job duties and the extra activities. The goal of the program is to help enrich and develop our youth for tomorrow's leaders by promoting creative learning and achieving excellence; and as a result, my life was enriched more than I could ever express," Murphy said.

Trudy James also of the VCCO has always been dependable when called upon for most volunteer efforts whether it is tutoring, mentoring, setting up art displays by the students, decorating floats, or participating in the parades. Trudy was selected as Vicksburg District's 2005 Woman of The Year.

"I have enjoyed volunteering on projects at the District. Each project has been a rewarding experience for me because one of my life's purposes is to make a positive difference in at least one person's life each day, be it in word or deed," James stated.

Barbara Hubbard of Real Estate Division has also chaired the committee and echoed the same sentiments about the program. "Our most valuable assets for the future are our youth, enriching their lives is a plus for me. Both of my two children attended and graduated from VHS so I already had a relationship with the school, faculty and staff. The Adopt-A-School Program afforded me another opportunity to be more actively involved, and to stay abreast of school issues and concerns."

Keith Matthews, a multi-talented team

Volunteerism

Continued from page 14

member, has always been very helpful with artwork needed for projects. His illustrations are always professional whether he has a three week or three day notification.

Matthews stated that the program is an excellent tool which affords the community to become involved in its educational system. "It provides a trusting relationship between school and industry, and realizing needs that can be met through the process, such as job shadowing and mentoring. I think it is wonderful for the District and other businesses to be a vital part of the educational process. Our students of today are the leaders of tomorrow, positively influencing them is a good thing," he said.

District's Christmas Committee

The District's Christmas Committee is another phase of volunteerism where team members again unselfishly give, especially during the Holidays. The District has adopted as many as 240 angels through the local Salvation Army, elderly and children. Considering that fact, the District has adopted more angels at one time than any other organization within the Vicksburg-Warren County area.



Filling boxes to be delivered to a local Women's Shelter are FEW members, left to right, Shirley Smith, Sissy Carter, of the Shelter, Peggy Wade, and Barbara Hubbard.

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree is just one of the projects that the District adopts for the Holidays. This local project is constant because no other project is available that will allow assistance of such magnitude.

Jeff Artman of Operations Division served as 2006 Christmas Committee chairperson and stated, "Following the tradition of past years, the committee selected one project to give back to the community and one project to help a member of our Corps family.

"The Salvation Army's Angel Tree project was adopted again, and the second project was assisting a hearing impaired employee with the purchase of

a cochlear implant. In order to hear the sounds of her new baby, Ramona Miles of Operations Division investigated the possibility of getting a cochlear implant. While the doctor's evaluation showed her to be a candidate for the implant, Ramona needed monies to cover her insurance deductible. Through the committee, District employees heartily responded to Ramona's need and donated the money. She is scheduled to have the procedure later this spring.

"Through the committee's efforts and the generosity of other team members, Hope and cheer, two hallmarks of the Christmas Season, were brought to members of our community," Artman said.

Henry Dulaney, team leader of Engineering Division's service section, stated, "We are proud to have the Angel Tree project agreed upon time and time again, it touches so many families, and makes so many children happy at Christmas," stated Henry Dulaney.

For Dulaney, who has chaired the committee numerous times since its inception in 1989, and father of five, this committee has a special meaning for him...buying for less fortunate children, and the elderly. He stated, "I am proud that the District family comes through every year to touch our community in a positive way. They are learning a lesson that the District family has exemplified in reaching out to those who are less fortunate. We have a moral obligation to lend a hand to our fellow man."

Deborah Hall, a mother of two, and secretary for Construction Division, has also served on the committee since its inception. She has experienced firsthand the benefits of adopting such a project. "Being on the committee for numerous years has allowed me to give back to the community what once was given to me. During my early childhood my siblings and I were blessed at Christmas by the Salvation Army. May God continue to bless the Salvation Army," Hall said.

Our success with this project is due to the generosity of team members. The Mat Sinking Unit always plays a big part in getting all of our angels adopted. We have even had contributions from lake offices, and affiliates of the lake offices. So, through the years donations have come from just about all entities of the Vicksburg District. This type of unselfish giving has attributed to the huge suc-

cess of the projects, and has definitely fueled the tradition of sharing/caring within the District.

Community Champions Program

This program serves many, many local charities through the dedicated services of many District team members. The program is designed to encourage community support through workplace volunteerism.

Community Champions are team members who have volunteered to promote and meet the needs of agencies. Throughout the year District champions are involved with city/county-wide activities, including The Heart Walk through the American Heart Association; Relay for Life through the American Cancer Society; Day of Caring through the United Way; Litter Pickup Day through the Keep Vicksburg Warren Beautiful; Bring Yours Sons/Daughters To Work Day which encourages family participation on a workday at the workplace. This is a partial list of champion agencies, as the District has more than 30 champions representing as many agencies.

Science Fair Judges

Local schools, as in most parts of the country, have science fairs, and must recruit volunteers to serve as judges. This is an excellent opportunity for workplace volunteerism.

The District has provided as many as 20 judges for local fairs.

Being involved with the educational systems improves the quality of life for our entire community. Serving as a science fair judge not only benefits the schools, but shows the public a side of the Corps they don't usually get to see.

Team members receive personal and professional benefits from participating in different settings and sharing their skills with others.

Comments from folks who have served as a science fair judge:

Arel Simpson of Operations Division stated, "The reason that I volunteer with all that I do, Cub master, assistant scoutmaster, as well as science fair judge, one day when I have become old, I am hoping that my life will have influenced some young person to have compassion towards others, and come to know Jesus as I have."

Cathy Hall of Planning Programs and Project Management Division said, "It's always amazing to me the ideas and conclusions students find for science fair projects. I enjoy volunteering and am glad to be of help."

Value Engineering not just a checked box

By Brandy Alexander, VEO

According to Franklin Rains of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), “Value engineering is a proven management tool that can be used by agencies to streamline operations, improve quality, and reduce contract costs.” Value engineering or as it is commonly called - VE can also lead to increased team and sponsor communication and understanding by bringing many disciplines and managers together to look back at the big picture view of a project or process.

For further clarification, a project delivery team (PDT), through design efforts, must first fulfill the needs of the customer, while a VE team helps find ways to include the wants of the customer into the project which in turn results in a more valuable project or procurement for all. VE tools help depict a clear vision of the big picture from both the designer’s perspective as well as the customer’s perspective. Once the big picture is understood, a VE study team can then quickly analyze a project to see if there are any overlooked opportunities to increase the quality and cost-effectiveness of a project.

Once VE alternatives are defined, they are presented in a report and presentation to the PDT. VE studies offer solutions for customer needs and wants as well as budgeting issues because VE is a powerful problem-solving tool that helps a project to improve the performance of its mission.

Value Engineering resulted from a need for materials during World War II, and was first implemented in the Corps in 1964 due to its proven potential for yielding a large return on investment. According to records with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), U.S. government agencies are realizing savings of an average of more than \$20 for every dollar invested. These savings in turn increase the funds available to achieve mission objectives.

In support of VE study execution and to reinvigorate the VE program on a national level, Corps Headquarters included VE as a step in the PMBP process as well as issuing the regulation ER 11-1-321 on Value Engineering viewable at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/ed/ve/main.asp>. According to ER 11-1-321, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires VE studies on all Corps of Engineers construction projects, programs, and procurements over \$2M total cost.

Suggested timing of the VE study is to be concurrent with District Office Review (DOR) at 35% design

complete so as not to cause any project schedule delays. For projects greater than \$10M, a VE study must also be included during the feasibility study. All Post-Authorization Changes (PACs), Limited Reevaluation Reports (LRRs), and General Reevaluation Reports (GRRs) shall include at least one VE study.

Also, design-build projects shall have a VE study completed prior to issuance of the draft RFP (Request for Proposal). ER 11-1-321 also recommends the inclusion of a VE certification statement in all civil works decision documents and Bid ability, constructability, operability and environmental (BCOE) review documents.

Every quarter, VE summary reports are sent to OMB and Congress. Through these reports, the government emphasizes its commitment to the stewardship of taxpayers’ dollars, which in turn builds public confidence and demonstrates compliance with public law.

As a reminder, value methodology use has long been recognized as an effective technique for lowering government costs while maintaining necessary quality levels. The value methodology is helping to reinvent the U.S. government by:

- Identifying cost-saving alternatives
- Using resources more effectively
- Decreasing project, operation and maintenance costs
- Improving safety programs for major government installations
- Reducing paperwork
- Simplifying procedures
- Improving project schedules
- Streamlining an agency’s organizational structure
- Cutting down on waste

How can VE become a part of your PDT? The first step is awareness in everything you do. Be aware of VE opportunities and challenge other team members to add value to designs and procurements.

The main objective of the VE program at the Vicksburg District is to build synergy within each PDT in order to produce creative and viable solutions. It is important to understand that VE is not crude cost cutting of quality features, but rather it is a proven, systematic approach to problem solving. VE does not result in a cheaper end product; VE increases the value of the product for the same amount of money!

The main objective of the VE program at the Vicksburg District is to build synergy within each PDT in order to produce creative and viable solutions.

Two inducted into District's Gallery of Distinguished Employees

PAO Special

Two former employees of the Vicksburg District have been granted the highest honor afforded by the District. The Gallery of Distinguished Employees includes retired employees who distinguished themselves through service during their tenure with the Corps.

Otha C. "Charlie" Phillips' career spanned more than 36 years of service spent in Engineering Division and Construction Division. His position as geotechnical engineer for Construction Division placed him in direct contact with both field personnel and principles of construction firms doing work for the Corps.

His personal character, integrity, geotechnical expertise, and his ability to make practical application of that expertise, allowed him to function very effectively in that position.

He began his Corps career in Engineering Division in 1967, after graduating from Mississippi State University. He transferred to the position of geotechnical engineer in Construction Division in 1978 and held that position until his death in 2003.

D.C. Kennedy (D.C.) began his 44-year career with the District with the Mat Sinking Unit in 1946 as a laborer at \$.65 per hour. During his 44 years of service, Dan made many stops along the way in the advancement of his career, working his way up to shift foreman.

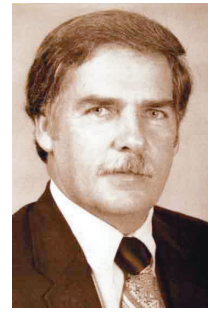
A great leader, he always treated people with fairness and respect. He was also respected for having unparalleled knowledge of the work he led.

He worked as a laborer from 1946 to 1954; in 1954 he was promoted to a deckhand.

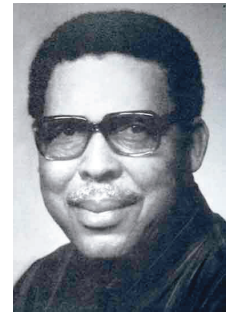
From 1955 to 1960 Dan worked aboard the snag boat "Charles H. West." He returned to the Mat Sinking Unit in 1960 as a deckhand. In 1967 Dan was promoted to engineering equipment operator; in 1973 he was promoted to bank foreman where he served until 1978.

In 1978 he was promoted to assistant shift foreman where he served until 1983, when he was promoted to shift foreman and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1990.

Both were inducted simultaneously during a ceremony earlier this year.



Otha C. Phillips



Daniel C. Kennedy

Retiree Profile

David Haworth retired in January 1998 ending more than 39 years of service with the Vicksburg District. His time with the District began after he received a degree in civil engineering from North Carolina State University, and after a tour as a 2nd lieutenant in the Army. After moving to Vicksburg, he continued to serve in the Army as a member of the 412th Engineer Command.

Haworth worked in Engineering Division except for two years in the mid 1980s when he was the executive assistant in the Commander's office. He retired as chief, Engineering Division.

In 1999 the Chief of the U.S. Army Reserves appointed Haworth as an Army Reserve Ambassador for Mississippi, a position he still holds.

While working for the District he was noted for his positive outlook and use of humor. Those characteristics and his interest in the District's mission have not changed in retirement except that he says, "I do not worry about the work anymore."

When asked about retirement, his response was, "It is great, I find that not working really agrees with me, there is not much time for the rocking chair though." There is the big yard that requires a lot of care, which Haworth said seemed like a good idea 15 years ago. The level of care given to his yard got the attention of a local gardening columnist, and later was featured in the local newspaper.

Haworth served as the first chairman of the District's Retiree Council. Now he is



Retiree David Haworth stands at a shrine near Tokyo.

seen around District headquarters a couple times a month managing the Retiree Service Center for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees.

Traveling is another important aspect of Haworth's retirement. Usually there is an international trip each year, as well as travel within the U.S. In 2005, he and his wife went to Australia and New Zealand for a month. Last year they went on a tour of Japan and China, which provided them an opportunity to visit different cultures. "Seeing the terra cotta warriors was a real highlight of the trip for me, and being on the Great Wall of China," Haworth stated.

During the 20-day tour of Japan and China, they traveled on the bullet train (180-mph) to Iwakuni, Japan, where their daughter and son-in-law are stationed at a U.S. Marine Air Station. The four made

a day trip to the Peace Park in Hiroshima where a museum and many memorials by nations and organizations reflect on the atomic bomb that destroyed the city on August 6, 1945.

The rest of the tour was with a tour group that started in Kyoto, Japan. Kyoto was the capital of Japan for more than 1000 years. They visited the Nijo Palace and got to see how the Shogun lived, the top military man. Other sites they visited were Tokyo, Hong Kong, Mainland China, and the last stop was Beijing.

Haworth stated that the amount of building construction underway in the city of 16 million was almost beyond belief. However, some of it is due to the Olympic Games scheduled to be played there in 2008.

He said that this fall Russia is on the travel calendar. Then there is the family trip where the Haworth clan has a reunion at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina each year, and Haworth stated that his 101-year-old mother has not missed one yet.

Also, David and his wife, Doris, have several grandchildren who live in Vicksburg, and they enjoy spending time with them.

When asked if there is a down side to retirement, Haworth said, "The only problem that I know of is that you have to be so old to do it. I enjoyed working and I enjoy not working."

If he has his mother's genes, he should get to enjoy not working for a long time to come.

The Haworths are active members of First Baptist Church of Vicksburg.

Corps honors new recreation passes

PAO Special

As of January 1, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers honors new national parks and federal recreation lands passes at all of its recreation areas as of January 1, 2007.

The new passes fall under the “America the Beautiful” Pass program and are as a result of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act Of 2004. The passes being honored by the Corps are the Senior and Access passes, which duplicate the benefits of the existing Golden Age and Golden Access passports at Corps facilities.

While legislation does not authorize the Corps to sell the new passes, Corps officials have determined that previously issued Golden Age and Golden Access passports, as well as the new Senior and Access passes, will be honored at Corps recreation areas. The Golden Age and Golden Access passes are lifetime passes.

New passes must be obtained in person at USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service facilities. The new and old passes provide a 50 percent discount to authorized users for day use and camping fees.

The Senior passes are for U.S. citizens and permanent residents age 62 or over. The Access passes are for any U.S. citizen with qualifying established medical

disabilities.

For further information on the new passes program within the Vicksburg District, please contact a Corps field office at one of the phone numbers below:

Mississippi:

Arkabutla Lake Field Office
(662) 562-6261

Enid Lake Field Office
(662) 563-4571

Grenada Lake Field Office
(662) 226-5911

Sardis Lake Field Office
(662) 563-4531

Louisiana:

Louisiana Field Office (Monroe)
(318) 322-6391

Arkansas:

DeGray Lake Field Office
(870) 246-5501

Lake Greeson Field Office
(870) 285-2151

Lake Ouachita Field Office
(501) 767-2101

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District C/PAO
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

First Class Mail
Postage & Fees Paid
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
Permit No. 56